

**Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Monday 1st March 2021 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllr. H. Fullerton (Chairman); Cllr. C. Dent; Cllr. A. Bucknell; Cllr. E. Hanrahan; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

Parishioners: 2 parishioners.

1 Public Session.

1.1 Fence at Willow Cottage,

Concern was raised by a parishioner about the replacement fence adjacent to the footpath across the Green at Willow Cottage in the Conservation area. The parishioner reported that the maximum height for a fence without permission in a conservation area is 3 feet. The new fence, which replaces an old fence, blocks views through into the garden of the owner and some trees beyond. The Clerk will contact the Conservation Officer at WBC for clarification.

2 Apologies.

Apologies of absence were received and accepted from Cllr. C. Plank and Mr. Pottier.

3 Declaration of Interests.

3.1 Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

4 Minutes of last meeting:

4.1 Parish Council meeting on Monday 18th January 2021.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council (SDPC) held on Monday 18th January 2021 were an accurate account of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Fullerton.

5 Management of Parish Council Assets.

5.1 The Club Room.

The details of R & R Roofing in Bucklebury have been sent to Mr. Pottier (for replacement of tiles on the Club Room roof).

There was uncertainty about whether the Club Room is still being used for exams.

5.2 The Village Field.

The Bucknell's have removed the old pallets from the field. Cllr. Fullerton will talk to the Plank family about removing the leaves from the field and the north side of the church.

5.3 The Village Green.

It was agreed to order 2 tonnes of gravel to a maximum cost of £250 for the surface of the footpath. It is anticipated that this will be spread by the Dredge Gang.

Cllr. Fullerton will obtain quotes to replace the posts on the edge of The Green.

6 Planning.

6.1 Planning applications sent to SDPC for consultation:

6.1.1 20/02926/FUL – Severalls Farm.

Erection of 2 no. buildings for General Purpose Agricultural Use and Farm Office.

It was agreed the SDPC has **no objection** to this application.

Given the number of recent applications for Severalls Farm, questions were asked about the strategy for the site; Cllr. Fullerton will contact Donnington Trust

6.1.2 20/00108/HOUSE – Saffron House.

The proposal is the erection of a three-bay oak framed garage to be used as a home office and undercover car storage.

SDPC has **objected** to this application on the grounds of the roof height and size. It was suggested that the Planning Officer should visit the site before determining the application.

6.2 Planning decisions made by WBC: No planning decisions, related to Stanford Dingley have been made by WBC since the last meeting.

7 **Parish Census.**

The census has been written up but there are various updates which need to be added. It will shortly be added to Google surveys online. The aim is to publicise it over the next two to three weeks. There was a request that the final draft is circulated to councillors prior to publication.

Cllr. Hanrahan will draft an email to be sent out to the parish distribution list.

It was noted that hard copies of the census will be required for some households.

8 **Sewer Flooding.**

Thames Water initially responded to the letter that they would attend a face-to-face meeting on the bridge, this was then changed to a Zoom meeting. However, it has now been suggested that three representatives from Thames Water and three representatives of SDPC/the parish meet on the bridge in mid-April.

A meeting in the Club Room immediately after the site meeting in mid-April was seen as an easier way of agreeing on progress; it was felt that this should meet with COVID restrictions. An acknowledgement has been received from the Environment Agency for the copy of the letter, of complaint, sent to Thames Water. It was agreed that a copy of the letter should also be sent to Environmental Health at WBC and to the Nick Carter, the Chief Executive of WBC.

9 **Traffic**

9.1 Upgrading of Restricted byway STAN 1 (Watery Lane).

Cllr. Dent reported that he had walked the course with a parishioner who is a civil engineer.

Upgrading the byway was felt to be eminently feasible, but will need drainage, as well as materials for a substantial base as well as a bridge. The parishioner will carry out some work to give an approximate cost.

9.2 Passing Points.

Verges are currently being churned up in order for vehicles to pass each other. There are a number of informal passing points. Questions were asked about whether these passing points could be surfaced, by WBC, such that they don't become unusable due to deep ruts. District Cllr. Pask responded that there isn't a policy on passing places but that he would ask the question.

10 **Clerk's Report.**

10.1 District Parish Conference.

The Clerk advised councillors of the West Berkshire District Parish Conference to be held virtually on Thursday 11th March at 6.30pm. No councillors were available to attend.

10.2 To receive the financial statement dated 1st March 2021.

The Clerk reported that the following payment has been made since the last meeting:

Connecting Communities in Berkshire	£168.00	CBAS membership.
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Triangle Management Co. Ltd	£72.00	Bin emptying for January, February and March 2021.
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The sum of £6,000 has been transferred from the Treasurers account to the Business Instant savings account. A VAT claim of £1,155.60 up to 31st December 2021 has been made. Once all transactions have cleared the balance in the account will be £6,730.18. This reconciles to the bank statement dated the 29th January 2021 showing a balance of £12,790.58.

10.3 Annual Parish Assembly.

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Assembly would be held virtually on Monday 19th April. Cllr. Fullerton asked that any matters which need to be covered in his report should be sent to him. There will be an update on the parish Census, possibly including a presentation of the results.

- 10.4** Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA).
The Clerk advised the Council that she will be working towards obtaining the CiLCA qualification which Bradfield and Bucklebury PCs are jointly funding.
- 10.5** Correspondence.
- 10.5.1** **West Berkshire Citizens Advice Bureau (WB CAB).**
It was agreed that SDPC should support the WB CAB, with a donation of £100 made through The Good Exchange.
There was a discussion about whether SDPC should do something to support Rushall Farm.
- 11** **Reports.**
- 11.1** District Councillor's Report.
District Cllr. Pask reported on the COVID road to recovery; vaccinations across West Berkshire are going at full speed, particularly for patients of the Chapel Row Surgery. Under COVID regulations, virtual meetings are not legal after the 6th May, but restrictions will be in place until at least the 21st June.
- 11.1.1** **Emerging Local Plan.**
As a result of the DEPZ (Detailed Emergency Planning Zone) around AWE Burghfield (supported by a Judicial Review), a site to the NE of Thatcham for 2,500 homes has become a strategic site (SP17). West Berkshire contains significant areas which are subject to flooding and 74% is within the AONB; neither of these areas are suitable for development. The results from the first consultation on the Emerging Local Plan are currently being analysed. The second consultation will take place in the summer.
- 11.2** Stanford Dingley Events Committee.
Mr. Pottier was thanked for organising and running the events which have been put on in the parish.
- 11.3** Tree planting in the parish.
Cllr. Fullerton will lead on some tree planting in the Village Field. It was suggested that a small number be planted along the roadside boundary fence; fruit trees were suggested. There was a question about possibly asking the church if the water supply from the church toilets could be extended to provide a tap in the Field.
The Village Green will be considered for planting a tree, but there may be enough trees around the Green.
- 11.4** Public Rights of Way.
A request has been received for the stile on BUCK125/1 through King's Copse to be replaced with a kissing gate. Cllr. Hanrahan will contact the owners of King's Copse and enquire.
- 12** **Round Table Comments.**
- 12.1** Planning Application for Oaken/Butcher's Piece.
Cllr. Bucknell will shortly be submitting a planning application for a new entrance drive to Oaken on the parcel of land known as Butcher's Piece.
- 12.2** New Residents.
It was noted that a number of new people have moved to the parish during the COVID pandemic and haven't had the opportunity to meet other parishioners. It was agreed that an event on the Village Field in the summer after restrictions have ended would be beneficial.
- 12.3** Digitising the History Archive.
Cllr. Bucknell commented that it will cost £50 to scan and index one A4 lever arch file of information. The information needs to be grouped into A4 folders in order to be scanned. It is expected that there will be approximately 15 folders (so cost approximately £750).
- 13** **Date of next future meetings:**
Annual Parish Assembly: Monday 19th April at 7.30pm (Zoom).
Annual meeting of SDPC: Monday 5th May 2021 at 7.30pm (Zoom).

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed:

Date: